Delay in delivery of Dak

66. SHRI KRISHN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Postal Department has introduced new postal channel for quick delivery of corporate mail in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that ordinary dak takes atleast a week for delivery from national capital to various state capitals where the journey is over-night and many trains available to carry dak;

(c) whether Government have analysed the causes of delay in delivery of ordinary dak affecting common people of the country; and

(d) if so, what steps are being comptemplated to ensure quick delivery of dak meant for common people of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The new channel designated as "Business Channel" has been introduced with effect from 1st July, 1994 in six important cities of the country viz; Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

(b) No, Sir. However, slipages and deficiencies resulting in inordinate delay to ordinary mails cannot be ruled out.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) (i) Constant monitoring of mail operations in the country at the Headquarters and field level.

(ii) Analysis of the result of the monitoring exercises and surveys to identify reasons for delay in transmission and delivery.

(iii) Review of the operational procedures pertaining to sorting and transmission particularly to ensure proper disposal of mail.

Selection of Private Sector parties for basic telephone services

67. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to permit domestic and foreign private sector participation in the basic telephone services;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government have not been able to select the private parties for the purpose so far; and

(c) if so, which are the companies who have applied for their participation and the reasons for selection not been made so far by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) It has been decided that companies registered in India will be permitted to participate in telephone services.

(b) and (c) Government have not yet invited proposals from private parties. The proposals available with the Government from the private parties and listed as Statement (See below) (as on 15.07.1994) have been submitted by the parties on their own. Government can decide in this matter only after finalisation of the guidelines being prepared in accordance with the National Telecom Policy 1994.

Statement

Names of parties from whom proposals have been received for private participation in telecom services

1. Southern Wireless Commn. Co. (SWC)
2. Himachal Pradesh State Development Corpn. Ltd., Shimla.
3. Indchem Communications Ltd. Madras-600 096.
4. Archana Telecom P. Ltd., New Delhi-110001.